

DAN 4959: Dance Senior Project (BFA/ BA)

Instructor of Record / Mentor:

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*Email Policy: Use ONLY your **UFL.EDU** email account OR Canvas Inbox for e-mail correspondence related to class. Please include your name & class in the subject line or within the body of all correspondence.

Office: Room 235, Nadine McGuire Theatre & Dance Pavilion

Office Hours: TBD, by appointment.

Mentorship Meetings: TBD

BFA Senior Project

BFA Senior Project Summary

The dance program has provided the student with an exceptional and supportive opportunity/experience that requires them to combine her/his/their skills as a choreographer, producer, and writer to achieve success; a culmination of the training you have received in the program that has prepared you for this capstone course. The focus of the BFA Senior Project is the creative process/research behind an original dance will be featured in the BFA showcase. The actual work is to be a *group piece* (usually four or more performers), with a running time of no more than eight-minutes (final performance time). You work as a *class* to produce the showcase simultaneously while you work on your creative project. Please note that all works in the showcase will be performed together. Finally, you will articulate your creative research in a thesis-style paper.

Objectives of the BFA Senior Project

- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to create an original dance
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to collaborate within a group of your artistic peers to produce a showcase of quality and substance
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to participate in a works-in-progress process to receive feedback from the UF dance community
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to work with their faculty mentor(s) to help you explore the full potential of their choreographic voice
- The Senior is provided with the opportunity to finalize and articulate their creative process through the paper

Casting Guidelines and Responsibilities

- All performing members of your cast are required to be UF students and encouraged that they are enrolled in an approved UF SoTD dance technique course. If your cast members are not in technique, it is incumbent upon you to build dance training into your rehearsal process to prevent injury.
- It is up to the choreographer to ensure that your dancers are only in a total of three (3) dances per concert (not program).
- It is the choreographer's responsibility to inform/remind their cast of all UnShowing times, tech times, call times, show times, load-in and strike responsibilities, as well as rules for attendance of warm-up, notes, etc.
- Choreographer should also be sure their cast has a clear calendar for the performance, as we will not make individual adjustments to the performance order or schedule.

Evaluation - Course

<i>Points</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Supervisor</i>
<i>(deductions only)</i>	Attendance at SP meetings & mentor meetings	Mentor & Director
20 pts	Creative Leadership in process	Mentor

20 pts	Producing Assignment	Director & SP Class
10 pts	Final work in showcase	Mentor & Director
50 pts	Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper (see rubric below)	Mentor
100 pts	<i>Total</i>	<i>Grade submitted by Mentor</i>

Creative Leadership

Points are given for the preparedness of the choreographer to implement her/his choreography, how well the concept was communicated to the dancers, and how well the choreographer guided their dance through the rehearsal process into performance. It can also reflect the quality of communication the choreographer had with their mentor.

Producing Assignment

Each person will be assigned a role in producing of your showcase. Even if you are working jointly with another senior, you are still responsible for the successful completion of the assignment related to the successful running of the show. Ultimately everyone is responsible for getting the job done.

Assignments may include:

- Costumes
- Technology Czar
- Tech Czar
- Poster/PR
- Program
- Lobby
- Props

Final work in Showcase

These are points given by the mentor in consultation with director for overall demeanor towards the fulfillment of the production through the beginning of the process through to strike. It can reflect the preparedness of the choreographer through the production process, such as techs, costuming deadlines, sound deadlines, etc.

BA Senior Project

BA Senior Project Summary

Senior Project (SP) is the capstone course for all BA dance students. The *SP* is an original research initiative, which culminates in a written paper, determined by the student in consultation with a dance faculty member and subject to approval by the dance area. The project is to innovatively merge the student's academic and dance interests. Take advantage of the open structure to the BA *Senior Project*, as it provides you with an unequalled flexibility to explore research areas. For example, the *SP* may serve you as a touchstone for post-graduation research, become a notable highlight in your resume, potentially publishable, and innovatively further the field of dance.

The paper may be supplemented by a presentation, but a presentation is not required. Please read further for more information on optional BA presentations.

The year before you will enroll in Senior Project (typically the final semester of your third year):

- ✓✓ **Select an advisor from the dance faculty** (and a co-advisor from outside the dance faculty, as you may decide).
- ✓✓ **Establish and declare your research topic.**

- ✓✓ **NOTE:** You are required to establish and declare your research topic by the last two semesters before graduation (typically by the end of your final semester of your third year). If there are any issues with your topic, your dance faculty advisor will guide you through. Work with your advisor to complete your *Senior Project* registration form with complete information regarding topic and method of evaluation before submitting to Undergraduate Advisor.
- ✓✓ **Choose fall or spring semester of senior year to register for SP**
You are required to register for SP in fall or spring semester only (not both) and should be agreed upon with your advisor.

The semester that you enroll in Senior Project

- ✓✓ **Follow the BA Senior Project syllabus**
Available on the college website, the syllabus contains all deadlines and the evaluative process for final grading.
- ✓✓ **For research that uses human subjects**
This requires specific paper work and must follow university protocols and requires additional time. Please see: <http://irb.ufl.edu/index/humanrsch.html>
- ✓✓ **If applicable, arrange presentation with your advisor**

BA Paper with Presentation - Guidelines

The BA students' *Senior Projects* have potential for presentation in diverse public fora. A presentation may be a choreographed work or work-in-progress, teaching demonstration, documentary-style film, PowerPoint presentation, or other. While **a presentation is not required**, the dance area will support you as resources allow. **A presentation does not replace the paper.** Please note that a choreographed dance, done for its own sake, would not be approved as a viable BA Senior Project.

Please also note that there is no SoTD budget available for BA *Senior Projects*. If you do decide to include a presentation as a part of your grade, this presentation should be executed as professionally as possible, given the limited resources, and reflect the highest standards for academic/creative research.

Students with a viable presentation related to their research paper may have several options for exhibition:

- ☐ An alternate location associated with another college/program—such as the Harn Museum Nights, the Harn Museum of Dance, or other.
- ☐ Presentation through an existing group with another venue for presentation, such as the Center for Arts in Medicine (AIM), the VISA talent show, a UF student dance company, other UF Student Government approved organizations, etc.
- ☐ A regularly scheduled *UnShowing*. Please note that *UnShowings* do not receive technical support (lights, costumes, etc.). Showing/Presentation is limited to 12 minutes and should require minimal set-up. You may petition for a more in depth/longer presentation.
- ☐ Other outlets/venues that you identify.

Examples of previous successful BA presentations (in conjunction with their research paper):

- ➤➤ PowerPoint presentation of creative work linked with Veteran causes and concerns.

- ➤➤ Documentary film using Laban Movement Analysis as a toolkit for women with Lymphedema.
- ➤➤ Dance Film – creative and technical study
- ➤➤ Presentation related to a University Scholars award
- ➤➤ Creative work exploring and exhibiting the choreographer's concept of collaboration.

Evaluation - Course

The general criteria for BA assessment will apply to the overall project and written paper. The BA Senior Project should be a clear and articulate integration of the student's areas of interest and studies in Dance as well as other major, minor, and certificate studies.

Points	Work Description
<i>(deductions only)</i>	Attendance at weekly SP mentor meetings
20 pts	Stays on track with incremental due dates in process
20 pts	Shows creative/ critical imitative in designing project, conducting research, and solving problems as they arise
60 pts	Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper [and Presentation, if applicable] (see rubric below)
<i>100 pts</i>	<i>Total</i>

BFA & BA Senior Projects

Senior Project 'Thesis' Paper

The Senior Project paper is the final phase of your Senior Project and the articulation of your research. It is expected that you will use the following format in the writing of your Senior Project paper.

Grading Rubric - Paper

	Exemplary = A/A-	Satisfactory = B/B-C+/C	Unsatisfactory = C- and below
Content Develops competency in the terminology, concepts, methodologies, and theories of dance studies and knowledge of varied applications of dance.	Commands an exceptional disciplinary fluency to freshly interpret and advance knowledge.	Develops adequate disciplinary competency to effectively interpret knowledge.	Student fails to develop effective disciplinary competency.
Critical Thinking	Demonstrates exemplary ability to recognize, probe, and develop relationships	Demonstrates ability to recognize, probe, and develop relationships	Fails to demonstrate ability to probe and develop relationships

Analyzes and fosters dance studies inquiry in correlation with diverse creative, historical, social, cultural perspectives, and/or other disciplinary perspectives.	between dance and varied disciplines.	between dance and varied disciplines.	between dance and varied disciplines.
Communication Develops and articulates in writing and/or practice applications of dance studies.	Innovatively applies dance studies and communicates analyses with exceptional effectiveness.	Realizes a solid level of application and effectively communicates analyses.	Does not realize a solid level of dance studies application and analyses.

RESEARCH PAPER REQUIRED FORMAT

NOTE: USE MLA STYLE GUIDELINES TO WRITE PAPER

A GREAT and EASY-TO-USE site for **MLA STYLE GUIDELINES**:

<http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/>

MLA Formatting and Style Guide

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Please note for them that for the paper you will have additional requirements beyond MLA, including title page, acknowledgments, etc.

- **Title Page**, with title of paper, your name, date submitted, class name and number, and professor (no page number) See: <http://content.easybib.com/citation-guides/mla-format/how-to-cite-a-scholarly-project-mla/>
- **Dedication** (roman numeral ii)
- **Acknowledgements** (roman numeral iii)
- **Abstract** succinct overview of the paper (Write—or rewrite—*after* you have completed your paper) (roman numeral iv). An abstract summarizes the paper and is used by prospective readers to decide whether or not to read the entire text. Make it compelling and powerful reading (100-250 words maximum).
- **Table of Contents** (roman numeral v). Use exact title of section on left and 1st page number of the section on right: include page numbers for dedication, acknowledgments, abstract, and section headers (but do not cite page numbers for title page or Table of Contents).
- One- to two-page **Introduction** to topic (start numeral 1)
 - *Problem and Purpose Statement: who or what are you proposing to discover, challenge, understand, illuminate. Purpose of paper and what you seek to achieve in this writing.*
 - *Rationale: what is important about this exploration? What contribution does it make to the field of dance?*
 - *Personal Statement: Why is the subject important to you? Is there a personal connection to the subject; or a connection you would like to make?*
- Two- to five-page **Discussion of the Literature** and other resources you researched (written, visual, media) - Demonstrate your knowledge of what has been done before related to this topic.
- Two- to five- page **Methodology** section describing the research process you undertook
 - Detail ideas and approaches showing WHAT you actually did.

- You may include HOW you made unique connections across (or unique use of) your selected “literature” (written, visual, media, etc.) and questions it prompted.
- Two- to three-page **Outcomes, Reflections, and Future Directions** section, summarizing the most salient outcomes of your project and possible future directions of your research/project.
 - The critical findings, results, or conclusions of the research, including strengths and weaknesses.
 - What further questions do you have or what directions for research?
 - What are the *larger* implications of your findings?
- Optional: Visual Resources
- Works Cited in **MLA** (Note you will use simple in-text citations as per **MLA**; place extra explanatory notes in endnotes) (page numbers...)

Honors Thesis

Depending on your approach to your quantitative, qualitative, and/or creative research, as well as your GPA, it is possible that this Senior Project paper can be converted into a research paper that will put you in good stead for graduation with high or highest honors should your GPA warrant such recognition. Your Dance History paper could also be used. This usually requires adapting or reconfiguring a portion of your creative research into a focused research topic. Typically, the Senior Project paper, by itself, would not be acceptable for this level of consideration. High/Highest honors papers also require a faculty mentor, as well as a second reader.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- Library Support: <https://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/> ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/>
- On-Line Students Complaints: <https://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>